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CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~

COUNTRY Soviet Zone of Germany

REPORT NO.

TOPIC Koethen Airfield

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EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED

DATE OF CONTENT 21 January - 10 February 1950

DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 21 March 1950

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

This document is hereby regraded to
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letter of 10 October 1978 from the
Director of Central Intelligence to the
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SOURCE

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1. There was flying with about six single-engine ground attack planes at the Koethen (M 52/D 95) airfield during the afternoons of bright days between 21 and 30 January 1950. There was a heavy frost and the field was covered with snow. The planes used were presumably alternated, for the racing up of plane engines was observed. All except twelve of the planes were taken to the three hangars after termination of flying activity. The twelve aircraft parked in the open were covered with tarpaulins and moored. On clear nights there was flying until midnight with two biplanes. A rotating searchlight at the field was in constant operation. Boundary lights were not seen. The surveying for the construction of the runway seemed to be completed. Construction of wooden sheds and hauling of building material to the field continued.
2. Rain and thaws set in between 31 January and 10 February 1950 and flying was discontinued. The aircraft parked in the open were warmed up every two or three days. The ground personnel wore blue overalls and engaged in infantry training. The guards and patrols at the field were increased. A sentry with field glasses and a telephone was recently posted on the roof of the heating plant.

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comment:

a. A ground attack and a reconnaissance regiment are assumed to be stationed at the field. This assumption is supported

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b. The reported construction work was confirmed by other sources. The landing field is allegedly being enlarged and a 1,700-meter runway is said to be under construction. The runway is to have a six to 7.5 centimeter concrete layer *.

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